

## Request for Applications – Specialty Drug Court Programs

The Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting competitive applications for projects that support eligible specialty drug court programs during the state fiscal year 2014 grant cycle.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Specialty Court Program is to support drug courts as defined in Chapter 469 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, which incorporates the following ten essential characteristics:

- 1) The integration of alcohol and other drug treatment services in the processing of cases in the judicial system;
- 2) The use of a non-adversarial approach involving prosecutors and defense attorneys to promote public safety and to protect the due process rights of program participants;
- 3) Early identification and prompt placement of eligible participants in the program;
- 4) Access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitative services;
- 5) Monitoring of abstinence through weekly alcohol and other drug testing;
- 6) A coordinated strategy to govern program responses to participants' compliance;
- 7) Ongoing judicial interaction with program participants;
- 8) Monitoring and evaluation of program goals and effectiveness;
- 9) Continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective program planning, implementation, and operations; and
- 10) Development of partnerships with public agencies and community organizations.

**Available Funding:** This solicitation may be funded from the following state and federal funding sources:

- 1) State funds: Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Section 102.0178. This section authorizes state funding for the purpose of funding drug courts and designates CJD as the administering agency. Funds received under this article are deposited to the credit of the drug court account in the general revenue fund.
- 2) State funds: Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Section 102.056 and Texas Government Code, Section 772.006. This provision authorizes the use of state funds to support criminal justice projects including drug courts, and designates CJD as the administering agency. The source of funding is a biennial appropriation by the Texas Legislature from funds collected through court costs and fees. All awards are subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature for the 2014-2015 biennium.
- 3) Federal funds: Federal funds are authorized under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program 42 U.S.C. 3751(a). JAG funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the United States Department of Justice. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

**Funding Levels:**

Minimum: \$10,000

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

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**Standards:** Grantees must comply with the standards applicable to this funding source cited in the *Texas Administrative Code* (1 TAC Chapter 3), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

**Prohibitions:** Grant funds may not be used to support the following services, activities, and costs:

- 1) inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
- 2) lobbying;
- 3) vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use;
- 4) weapons, ammunition, explosives or military vehicles;
- 5) admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
- 6) promotional gifts;
- 7) food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments;
- 8) membership dues for individuals;
- 9) any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the grant project or that is provided by other federal, state or local funds (e.g., supplanting);
- 10) fundraising;
- 11) construction, remodeling or renovation;
- 12) medical services; and
- 13) transportation, lodging, per diem or any related costs for participants when grant funds are used to develop and conduct training.

**Eligible Applicants:**

- 1) Counties; and
- 2) Judicial districts

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- 1) Pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 469.006, counties with populations of more than 200,000 are required to establish a drug court;
- 2) The court must be registered with CJD as required in the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 469.003, and must maintain a current registration throughout the grant period;
- 3) The court must also be registered with the Texas Department of State Health Services, Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services database. Information about registration procedures may be accessed at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cmbhs/default.shtm>;
- 4) The presiding judge of a drug court funded through this program must be an active judge holding elective office, an associate judge or magistrate assigned to preside over drug court, or a retired judge available as a sitting judge;
- 5) Any portion of fees collected from program participants and retained by the grantee is considered generated program income (GPI) and must be applied to the grant through a grant adjustment. GPI must be used to offset project costs and must be expended prior to seeking payment from CJD;
- 6) In order for an applicant to be eligible, the county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have a 90% average on both adult and juvenile criminal history dispositions to the Texas Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2007 through 2011. This requirement must be met by August 1, 2013;
- 7) Applicants funded under the JAG program must ensure that their law enforcement agency is current on reporting Part 1 violent crime data to the Texas Department of

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Public Safety for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and that the agency has been current for the three previous years;

- 8) Applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency(to request a DUNS number, go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>);
- 9) Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/> and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period; and
- 10) Applicants funded under the JAG program must assure that if its agency was eligible to apply, it did apply for a direct award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for JAG funds under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant Program.

**Project Period:** Grant-funded projects must begin on or after September 1, 2013, and expire on or before August 31, 2014.

**Application Process:** Applicants must access CJD's grant management website at <https://eGrants.governor.state.tx.us> to register and apply for funding.

**Preferences:** Preference will be given to mandated drug courts under Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 469.006.

**Closing Date for Receipt of Applications:** All applications must be submitted via CJD's eGrants website on or before February 28, 2013.

**Selection Process:** Applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the Specialty Courts Advisory Council (Council) who will make funding recommendations to CJD. CJD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, Council recommendations, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness. A copy of the scoring elements to be used by the Council is available under the Forms link at <https://eGrants.governor.state.tx.us/updates.aspx>.

**Contact Person:** If additional information is needed, contact the eGrants help desk at [eGrants@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:eGrants@governor.state.tx.us) or (512) 463-1919.